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WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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St. Louis, Mo.

## 31 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT ILLINOIS SESSION

Thirty-one organizations, all interested in safety, were represented at the Farm and Rural Home Safety Conference, held under the auspices of the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois.

A State committee was formed, to consist of representatives of organizations which are in position to make definite contributions for effecting a program of safety. A letter from E. W. Lehmann, chairman of the committee, requests the Safety Unit of the REA to name a representative to the committee.

Mr. Lehmann also writes that he is planning to get out a statement on what can be done by each affiliated organization in a cooperative program. The statement, he writes, should at the same time be a brief plan of action.

The Safety Unit of the REA also is invited to supply a list of educational material that can be made available to others interested in promoting safety.

v - v

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR AN ACCIDENT

There's no place like home—for an accident, safety experts tell us, and they give statistics to prove that more accidents occur in homes all over the country than do in the hustle and bustle of the indus-

## OHIO REA CO-OPS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN SAFETY MOBILIZATION MONTH

REA systems in Ohio were asked by W. E. Herring, Chief of the REA Cooperatives' Operations Division, to cooperate in a program to conserve manpower and material on Ohio farms, launched by the Ohio Farm and Home Accident Prevention Committee of the State Safety Council. The committee consists of agricultural leaders from State departments and services and representatives of a number of other organizations.

"You have a splendid opportunity, in cooperating with this program, to increase the interest of your membership in this essential and very worthwhile activity," Mr. Herring wrote to the systems, and termed the work "a direct contribution to the war effort" and "a general benefit to Ohio agriculture."

"It is important," the letter goes on, "that we contribute our share to the program of practical education in accident prevention and safety for the farmsteads of Ohio. Active and loyal participation are necessary to make such a program function."

Groups participating in the program include the College of Agriculture, Agricultural Extension Service, State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Education, Vocational Agriculture, Vocational Home Economics, Grange, Farm Bureau, Department of Safety and Hygiene of the State Industrial Commission, Farm Security Administration, Red Cross and the farm press among others. The Governor of Ohio proclaimed January Farm and Home Safety Mobilization Month, and the campaign will be emphasized at Farmers' Week at Ohio State University.

The Ohio program, Mr. Herring added, is part of a broad nationwide effort to save manpower for warpower wherever accident hazards may exist.

The work of the campaign is divided into 24 separate activities, and includes radio announcements, press releases, distribution of posters and information through colleges, high schools and grade schools, exhibits, projects on statistics and bibliographies.

## BUY MORE BONDS FOR MORE BOMBS

trial world.

Look around your home for some of these hazards, unlighted stairways, looserugs on polished floors, frayed lamp cords, loose fitting wall receptacles, open sockets, and toys, brooms, mops and other articles left on stairways or in doorways.

Don't allow ice to accumu-

(Turn to HOME, page 3)

MAKE THAT  
LOST - TIME  
ACCIDENT  
A  
LAST - TIME  
ACCIDENT

Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety  
for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

## LOOKING BACK ON '42

We are entering a new year. It is well to look back to see what we can learn from the experience of the year just past.

Early last year an analysis was made of the accidents on our lines. The analysis proved that our biggest accident problem was electric shock. The analysis also revealed that use of protective grounds or rubber gloves would practically eliminate our electric shock accidents.

The Lineman therefore started a campaign, supplemented with discussions of accident causes in staff conferences, in conferences with Regional Operations Engineers, and with suggestions to superintendents in our correspondence on safety and accidents. An appeal was made in May to all Regional Operations Engineers, their field representatives, and to Safety and Job Training Officials and Supervisors, to help us carry our campaign for "wearing rubber gloves or installing protective grounds" to the superintendents and directly to the linemen. This was followed by a second appeal in July, asking all to redouble their efforts, since two-thirds of all our fatal accidents occur during the last half of the year. In fact *there were as many fatal accidents during the single month of August 1941 as there were in ALL of 1942.*

That the campaign was successful may be seen from the chart on page 4. Fatal accidents have been reduced from 23 to 6, or approximately 75 percent. Non-fatal accidents were reduced almost proportionately. This record is particularly important at this time in our national history when every hour of productive labor is needed for our all-out war effort.

Everyone connected with REA should feel proud of this record. But to linemen and superintendents must go most of the credit. We can only guide them and make suggestions. They are the ones who put our suggestions into practice.

Nevertheless, to some extent we have failed. The chart on page 4 is at the same time a record of what we did NOT accomplish. There are some whom we have not convinced that wearing rubber gloves or installing protective grounds are necessary. The six fatal accidents ALL resulted from electric shock. They were ALL results of BURNS ON THE HANDS.

There is, therefore, still much to be done. Undoubtedly there were many times when work was performed close to energized primaries and rubber gloves were not worn. Or work was performed on de-energized wires without the installation of protective grounds. And no accident resulted. But that cannot always be so. Sooner or later there will be that fatal slip — a slip which takes a life. It CAN and DOES happen.

It is your job, and the job of all of us, to convince linemen that rubber gloves or protective grounds are necessary.

We shall continue with that job until electric shock accidents, resulting from BURNS ON THE HANDS, are entirely eliminated.

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SAVE MANPOWER FOR WARPPOWER!!

## APOLOGIES, THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Jan. 4, 1943

To the Editor:

In the December issue of The Lineman we noticed that you published "A Lineman's Dream" and gave credit to Huntington County, Indiana REMC for it. We wish to call to your attention that this little jingle was first published in our monthly bulletin for Sept. 20, 1941. It was written by our Line Sup't., Mr. Jack Steele, who has been employed by this Cooperative since its energization in December, 1937. We enclose a copy of the first sheet of our bulletin for Sept. 20, 1941, bearing the jingle just as it was first printed. We also enclose three other jingles written by our Line Sup't. and authorize you to use them in any way you see fit.

We enjoy reading The Lineman very much, and profit from some of the experiences described in its pages. We are proud to say that our Cooperative has never suffered a disabling accident. In fact, we have never had a lost-time accident in over five years of operation. Furthermore, we intend to keep this record intact for the next five years.

Yours for safety,

R. C. Boecher,

Manager

v - v

## Typically NAZI!

German authorities deny that omission of safety devices and the lack of proper maintenance are causing an increased accident rate, according to a report smuggled out of Germany. Accidents are blamed on "negligence." And the remedy proposed is "to increase the penalties for such accidents!"

v - v



## DISCUSSION CASE NO. 43-

A lineman and a groundman started out to do some work on a local independent telephone line. The lineman had about 20 years of experience on power and telephone lines.

Before climbing an old 21-foot cedar pole, they tested it by the usual methods. Both agreed it was safe to climb.

The lineman then climbed the pole and cut the single-wire it supported. But the pole broke, and as it fell, it made a quarter turn causing the lineman to land astraddle and on his stomach on top of the pole. He suffered a fractured pelvis, severe bruises on his head and chest with resultant internal hemorrhages.

An examination of the pole after it had broken would disclose whether the test "by the usual methods" was sufficient to determine if the pole actually was strong enough to support a man's weight. But if the pole was sound, it must have been the sudden unequal strain, created when the wire was cut, that caused it to break.

What sort of a test do you give a pole before you climb it?

Do you use come-alongs to hold the strain so that the pole will not snap off when you cut the wire?

v - v

### HOME (Cont'd.)

late on your doorstep or side-walks this winter. Have a good door mat near the entrance of your house so that no one need step with wet shoes on bare floors. Be sure your heating system is in good repair so that there is no danger of fire.

Safety Monitor

v - v

What did you do today

## • TOWARD WINNING THE WAR

### ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS -12th MONTH (Disabling Injuries per 10,000 miles of energized lines)

REGION	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
I	2.2	4.0
II	0.3	4.2
III	1.3	4.0
IV	1.5	1.8
V	2.3	5.0
VI	0.9	8.1
VII	1.9	4.4
VIII	0.9	8.2
IX	4.6	6.3
X	3.1	2.3
U.S.	1.8	4.6

### DISCUSSION CASES DRAW COMMENTS

J. A. Tullis of the Clay-Union Electric Corporation at Vermillion, S. D., makes this comment on the first article in Discussion Case No. 10 in the Lineman of November:

"We always untie the neutral and tie it down out of the way with a rope. By doing this you not only eliminate the danger of electric shock through the neutral but make your work easier by giving you complete freedom to move around to any position on the pole you wish."

V. C. Kallal, Superintendent of the Southwestern Electric Cooperative at Greenville, Ill., writes regarding Discussion Case No. 11 in the December Lineman:

"The practice with us is to attach a hot line clamp and hot stick to the jumper before cutting it. The weight of the stick pulls the jumper down, out of the way, after which it can be clamped to the neutral or cut off entirely since the same jumper can rarely be used."

If you have anything to add to our suggestions on preventive measures, or do not agree with them, write to us.

## THE BURNS WERE ON THE HANDS

## THEY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

1. With his rubber gloves on, a line foreman atop a pole began to remove a 3-bolt jumper clamp. Before taking hold of the clamp and as his elbow rested on the transformer, he brushed the wire with the back of his hand. He suffered a slight burn on his right elbow. A hole later was discovered in the palm of one glove. Instructions are not to work voltages more than 2300 with only rubber gloves. But he had left his hot line cutters behind.

2. Trying to reach the hot line clamp on the top wire while working on a transformer station pole, the metal grip of the lineman's hot stick came in contact with the 7620V lead to the transformer. The lineman suffered severe BURNS ON HIS LEFT HAND, and surface burns on his right arm. The middle finger of his left hand had to be amputated.

3. On a cold and frosty morning, a groundman set out to cut a tree. On the first swing the axe deflected from the frozen tree, cutting through his overshoe and shoe. Seven stitches were required to close the foot wound.

4. A helper asserts he suffered a hernia from lifting a pole. The accident was not reported for several months.

v - v

### SEND IN THE NAMES

More linemen have gone into the armed services than any other classification of REA employees. They would like, as far as possible, to retain touch with the civilian life they have left for the time being. They want mail from home. Urge their home folks to send them letters. Ask us to send you enough extra copies of The Lineman for you to send each of your military- leave workers one

# FATAL AND ELECTRIC SHOCK ACCIDENT TRENDS, 1939 - 1942

